## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

JOHN B. MATTHEW & LAURENCE H GOODYEAR

Serial No: 09/462,695 Filed: January 12, 2000

For: Improved Papermaking Screenplate

& Method of Construction

Art Unit 1723

Examiner: Matthew 0 Savage

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION UNDER RULE 1.53(d)(1)

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Applicants respectfully request continued prosecution of this application under Rule 1.53.

Cancel claims 1-11.

Add the following claims:

12. A papermaking screenplate comprising an assembly of elongate strips, a plurality of spacer cross bars located between adjacent strips to define open ended slots between the assembly of strips, the spacer cross bars having a thickness defining the width of slots between adjacent strips, the spacer cross bars in an assembled screenplate being separated from each other at intervals approximately equal to two to twenty times the length of spacer cross bar, and the screenplate having an open area of up to 27%.

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13. A papermaking screenplate comprising an assembly of